

For Immediate Release

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HERSETH SANDLIN INVITES CONSTITUENTS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE POWDER RIVER TRAINING COMPLEX AT ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

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Washington, DC (August 24, 2010) – Today, U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin encouraged South Dakotans to submit comments during the upcoming public hearings on a potential expansion of the Powder River Training Complex at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

“Ellsworth is an critical priority for South Dakota and for our national security. I believe that the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex would provide tremendous benefits, by offering a more realistic training opportunities for Air Force pilots,” Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. “I strongly urge South Dakotans to weigh in to help move this process forward, and to ensure that the rights of all citizens potentially affected by the expansion are protected.”

The proposed expansion would increase the size of the Powder River complex and allow the B-1 crews at Ellsworth to conduct more comprehensive training missions. According to the Air Force, the current Powder River complex does not provide adequate airspace to train B-1 aircrews from Ellsworth for present and future training requirements as well as for B-52 air crews out of Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Public hearings on the expansion are slated to begin on Sept. 14, 2010, in Rapid City at the Holiday Inn, 505 North Fifth Street. A complete schedule of all South Dakota hearings is below. In all, the Air Force will solicit comments at 18 public hearings in four states between September and late October. The comment period officially ends Nov. 13, 2010.

The proposed Powder River Training Complex would cover parts of four states – South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

South Dakota public hearings

Sept. 14, 2010 – Rapid City, Holiday Inn, 505 North Fifth Street

Sept. 15, 2010 – Belle Fourche, Community Center, Dakota Room, 1111 National Street

Sept. 17, 2010 – Buffalo, Harding County Memorial Recreation Center, 204 Hodge Street

Sept. 20, 2010 – Bison, Bison School Cafeteria, 200 East Carr Street

Comments on the proposal can also be sent directly to the Air Force, at the below address:

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